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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 005036

SIPDIS

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SUBJECT: ITALY: POINTS FOR PM'S TRIP TO RUSSIA AND  
PARLIAMENT SPEAKER'S TRIP TO IRAN

REF: A. SECSTATE 201639

[1](#)B. SECSTATE 195668

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CLASSIFIED BY: DCM EMIL SKODON FOR REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D)

[1](#)1. (C) ON OCT 15 DCM BRIEFED PM BERLUSCONI DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR CASTELLANETA ON USG CONCERNS REGARDING RUSSIAN POLICIES TOWARD IRAQ AND IRAN, USING POINTS IN REF A, IN PREPARATION FOR THE PM'S OCT 16 MEETING WITH PRESIDENT PUTIN IN MOSCOW. (NOTE: CASTELLANETA HAD REQUESTED THIS BRIEFING ON BEHALF OF BERLUSCONI, SO THAT THE PM COULD BE AWARE OF ANY POINTS THE USG RECOMMENDED HE EMPHASIZE TO PUTIN. END NOTE.) CASTELLANETA, A FORMER GOI AMBASSADOR TO TEHRAN, WAS ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN USG POINTS REGARDING RUSSIAN INVOLVEMENT IN IRANIAN COVERT AND OVERT NUCLEAR PROGRAMS AND THE THREAT THAT POSED TO U.S.-RUSSIAN RELATIONS. REGARDING IRAQ, HE COMMENTED THAT THE PM AGREED COMPLETELY WITH USG POINTS ON THE NEED FOR A FIRM AND UNITED INTERNATIONAL EFFORT TO PRESSURE SADDAM TO GIVE UP HIS WMD. CASTELLANETA SAID THAT THE SOLE EVENT ON THE SCHEDULE FOR THE PM'S ONE-DAY MOSCOW TRIP WAS A LONG ONE-PLUS-ONE LUNCH WITH PUTIN. CASTELLANETA EXPECTED HE WOULD BE THE PLUS-ONE ON THE ITALIAN SIDE. CASTELLANETA ALSO MENTIONED THAT THERE WAS A SLIM POSSIBILITY THAT THE PM'S RETURN FLIGHT WOULD BE RE-ROUTED THROUGH BERLIN THE EVENING OF OCT 16, IF/IF A MEETING COULD BE SCHEDULED WITH THE GERMAN CHANCELLOR.

[1](#)2. (C) ON OCT 10, DCM AND POL MC RAISED REF B POINTS ON IRAN WITH PIETRO SEBASTIANI, DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR FOR PIERFERDINANDO CASINI, PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES. CASINI HAD REQUESTED USG INPUT PRIOR TO HIS TRIP TO IRAN. THEY STRESSED THAT, EVEN THOUGH CASINI WAS NOT LIKELY TO MEET IRANIAN OFFICIALS DIRECTLY INVOLVED WITH WMD AND TERRORISM ISSUES, IT

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WAS IMPORTANT TO CLARIFY PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY HOW VITAL SUCH ISSUES WERE IN BUILDING STRONG TIES WITH EUROPE. THE IRANIAN PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT EQUATE THE EU ENGAGEMENT POLICY WITH TACIT ACCEPTANCE OF IRAN'S WMD OR TERRORISM RECORD.

[1](#)3. (C) ON OCT 14, CASINI INFORMED THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE WOULD GO TO IRAN OCT 31-NOV 4. AS THE DCM DID WITH SEBASTIANI, THE AMBASSADOR OFFERED TO PROVIDE CASINI BOTH PUBLIC DOCUMENTS AND INTELLIGENCE-DERIVED BRIEFINGS ON IRAN, WHICH CASINI ACCEPTED. EMBASSY IS CURRENTLY WORKING TO ARRANGE THOSE BRIEFINGS.

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